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**MARO Spring 2005**

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### Recommended Citation

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## Dogfighting Figure Con- victed

**B**ob Stevens, of Pittsville, Virginia, was convicted in a Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, courtroom for sending videos depicting animal cruelty across state lines, a federal offense. A jury deliberated less than an hour before rendering a guilty verdict against Stevens, who had been served with a search warrant in April 2003, the same date on which James Fricchione and Jack Kelly—publisher and former publisher, respectively, of “Sporting Dog Journal”—were also served in a well-coordinated effort by state and federal authorities in New York, Virginia, and Georgia.

The significance of the Stevens case  
*continued on page 2*

**This dog, seized in a dogfighting bust in Florida, has suffered the terrible wounds of battle.**



LAURA BEVAN/HSUS

## NJ Supreme Court Stops Bear Hunt

**T**he New Jersey Supreme Court voted unanimously to cancel the black bear hunt, scheduled for December 6–11, 2004, just four days before it was to begin. MARO's Barbara Dyer said, “This is a victory not only for the bears, but for everyone who took action on their behalf!”

The relentless pressure by HSUS and its members, The Fund for Animals, other animal protection organizations, and the public forced Gov. James McGreevey and Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Commissioner Bradley Campbell to stop the hunt. Campbell ordered the Division of Fish and Wildlife to withhold black bear hunting permits and closed all state land to black bear hunting. This was the first time that a DEP commissioner challenged the independent Fish and Game Council, whose members—save for Jack Schrier—all voted for the hunt.

In November, U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance Foundation and the New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs joined two individuals to sue the DEP and the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, as well as the DEP commissioner and the Division director, for withholding bear hunting permits. Safari Club International and the Safari Club International Foundation also sued them separately for closing state land to bear hunting.

Deputy Attorney General Barbara



AL TATYREK

**MARO's Barbara Dyer (second from left) celebrates the canceled bear hunt with (from left) Bear Education and Resource Group's Lynda Smith and New Jersey Animal Rights Alliance's Angi Metler and Terry Fritzges.**

Conklin argued both cases for the state. She contended that DEP did not have the resources to conduct a bear hunt that could guarantee public safety. She also argued that if a bear hunt was conducted, it would dominate DEP's resources so as to preclude non-lethal bear management solutions such as education, enforcement of the feeding ban, and contraception research.

The appellate court ruled against the commissioner over the permits, but ruled in favor of the commissioner for closing all lands owned, managed, or controlled by the DEP to bear hunting, giving Campbell the ultimate authority to determine whether to open these lands to hunting. “The commissioner has established the parks, forests, and  
*continued on page 2*

## West Virginia: Welcome to the Region!

**A**s of February 1, 2005, West Virginia joined the states covered by HSUS's Mid-Atlantic Regional Office. Our staff looks forward to working with animal advocates in the Mountain State. You can reach our office at 270 Rt. 206, Bartley Sq., Flanders, NJ 07836; 973-927-5611; [www.hsus.org/maro](http://www.hsus.org/maro).



HSUS's Dr. Allen Rutberg (left) administers a contraceptive vaccine to an anesthetized bear at the Six Flags park in Jackson, New Jersey.

## Bear Contraception Project Underway

During the week of October 18, 2004, a team of HSUS scientists and technicians traveled to Six Flags Great Adventure Wild Animal Safari Park in Jackson, New Jersey, to administer immuno-contraceptive vaccine to six female American black bears. The treatment of captive bears is the first step toward establishing whether immunocontraception can play a role in solving conflicts with black bears in New Jersey and elsewhere. Since the treated bears may already have been pregnant with cubs to be delivered this spring, no information on the effectiveness of the vaccine will be available until late fall. The project is a cooperative effort between The HSUS, Six Flags, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, and the Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine.

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recreation areas under the DEP's jurisdiction as sanctuaries in which bears may not be hunted this season," wrote the court.

As the lawsuits were being argued, the U.S. Department of the Interior sent a letter to the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife threatening to withhold \$2 million in federal aid to a New Jersey Wildlife Restoration program if a bear hunt was not held. HSUS brought this to the attention of Sen. Frank R. Lautenberg, who immediately responded with a strong letter to Interior Secretary Gale Norton, expressing his dismay over the threat and demanding that it be withdrawn.

In the meantime, the Supreme Court reversed the judgment of the appellate court on the bear hunting applications, thereby canceling the hunt for 2004. "This court decision does more than just protect black bears from needless killing by trophy hunters," says Wayne Pacelle, president and CEO of The HSUS. "This case sets a precedent that the hunter-dominated Fish and Game Council can no longer thumb its nose at the people of New Jersey and the commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection. The Council's reckless decision to push ahead with a hunt has been thwarted by a unanimous Supreme Court."

## Your Help is Still Needed to Protect Bears

The Fish and Game Council will want another hunt for black bears in 2005. Watch for the 2005-2006 Game Code to be published in the "New Jersey Register" in May. There will most likely be a hearing in June. Updates will be sent to those of you who have signed up for our regional activist e-mail list. The ways to help bears are to:

1. Ask your state legislators to support these bills.
  - S. 700, sponsored by Sen. Joseph Vitale (D19), prohibits black bear hunting for five years, requires development of plan for bear population control, and appropriates \$95,000 to develop a plan.
  - A. 2452, sponsored by Assemblyman Reed Gusciora (D15), prohibits black bear hunting until completion of a report submitted by Rutgers University and appropriates \$95,000.
- To find out who represents you, call the New Jersey Office of Legislative Services at 1-800-792-8630, or go to [www.njleg.state.nj.us/members/legsearch.asp](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/members/legsearch.asp).
2. Join our e-mail activist list. You will be notified when action is needed to help animals. To join, send an e-mail to [maro@hsus.org](mailto:maro@hsus.org) giving your name, city, and state.
3. Contact acting Gov. Richard J. Codey. Let him know that you do not want a black bear hunt. Write, call, or e-mail the governor: P.O. Box 001, Trenton, New Jersey 08625; 609-292-6000; [www.state.nj.us/governor/govmail.html](http://www.state.nj.us/governor/govmail.html).

continued from "Dogfighting," page 1

cannot be overstated, since it is the first time the constitutionality of a federal law enacted in 1999 has been challenged and upheld in court. The HSUS cooperated with the legal team from the U.S. Attorney's Office by assisting with the legal defense of the law and gathering background on the witnesses. The charges against Stevens hinged on his interstate sale of videotapes depicting dogfights and pit bulls attacking hogs. The federal law prohibiting interstate transfer of material depicting cruelty to animals was enacted in response to outrage over the proliferation and sale of "crush" videos, those with scenes of small animals being tortured to death under the feet of women in spike-heeled shoes for viewers' sexual gratification.

Historically, proponents of animal fighting have blatantly published and distributed materials depicting or promoting the blood "sports," invoking the First Amendment. The Stevens case illustrates that the Constitution is not meant to shield criminal activity.

The HSUS salutes all who were involved in the Stevens case, from the Pennsylvania State Police, which did undercover work, to the U.S. attorneys who argued the case.

Note: James Fricchione, convicted in New York last year on numerous animal fighting-related crimes, has been indicted in Pennsylvania along with Jack Kelly for activities related to the promotion of animal fighting in "Sporting Dog Journal." We will update our readers on the outcome of those cases when they are adjudicated.

## Task Force Findings Released

After nearly two years of meetings and thousands of e-mails, the New Jersey Animal Welfare Task Force released its nearly 200-page report, which is available for download at [www.state.nj.us/animalwelfare/taskforcereport.pdf](http://www.state.nj.us/animalwelfare/taskforcereport.pdf). Gov. James McGreevey created the task force to examine the current laws concerning animal abuse and neglect, animal population control, and animal welfare; examine the manner in which the anti-cruelty laws are enforced; examine the status of population control and the animal shelter system in the state; and recommend changes to the laws and regulations to protect animals from inhumane treatment, improve the enforcement of anti-cruelty laws, and address the problem of unwanted and euthanized animals in the state.

Because of the sudden departure of Gov. McGreevey, the report was released before the entire task force could meet one last time to discuss the final draft in its entirety. While much of the report will serve as a model for other states, The HSUS had some serious concerns that were expressed to the governor through his staff. A number of our suggestions were implemented, and it appears that virtually all were at least considered.

One major omission in the report is the task force's refusal to address minimum standards or oversight for animal rescue and foster agencies. Since these groups were endorsed in several areas of the report, it

would stand to reason that they be included under the same umbrella of accountability as animal shelters and pounds.

With regard to the issue of proposed feral cat trap-neuter-release (TNR) programs, The HSUS believes that for any such program to be successful, it is critical that planning, infrastructure, and resources be in place before any action is taken. We believe that any recommendation of these programs should be strictly contingent on such an infrastructure. We would similarly advise that any such TNR programs be conducted on a trial basis to provide opportunities to evaluate and revise the system before large-scale operations are put in place.

A number of commendable proposals in the report serve to expand or refine many of the existing programs that have helped New Jersey to be known as the "humane state." The task force carefully crafted recommendations to expand the state's pets-in-rental-housing legislation, while still respecting the rights of landlords and tenants who might prefer to live in pet-free areas. Likewise, the report encourages the enforcement of animal cruelty laws and the exploration of the link between animal cruelty and violence toward humans.

The HSUS wishes to thank former Gov. McGreevey for the opportunity to serve on the Animal Welfare Task Force. We are hopeful that parts of this document will eventually serve as an example for the rest of the country.



HILARY SCHWAB

## Legislative Update

New Yorkers, please support and ask your state Senator and state Assemblyperson to support the following two bills. If you do not know who your representatives are, go to [www.assembly.state.ny.us](http://www.assembly.state.ny.us).

- A. 19 bans cruel methods of killing furbearing animals, including anal and genital electrocution.
- A. 6212/S. 3330 and S. 2083, foie gras bills, make it unlawful to force feed an animal for non-medical reasons, which effectively bans the force feeding of geese for the production of pate de foie gras.

## I want to learn how I can help our animal friends and The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS).

Please send me information about

- ☐ Making a memorial donation to honor the life of a pet, friend, or relative.
- ☐ Providing for my pets in my will and in case of emergency.
- ☐ Planning my estate and will to help animals and The HSUS.

- ☐ Using charitable gift annuities and trusts to support The HSUS.
- ☐ Giving The HSUS a gift of stock.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

DAYTIME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL (OPTIONAL) \_\_\_\_\_

Promoting the protection of all animals

**THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES**  
MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL OFFICE  
Bartley Square  
270 Route 206  
Flanders, NJ 07836

## Dog Behavior Training for NJ Police

**N**ationwide, there have been countless reported incidents of unnecessary police shootings of dogs on both private property and in public areas. Such incidents occur because law enforcement personnel in most places have no training in how to read dog behavior. So MARO was pleased to help develop a training video for police in Ocean County, New Jersey.

Heather Cammisa, executive director of the Jersey Shore Animal Center (JSAC), decided to take action after a family dog was fatally shot in Brick Township by a law enforcement authority who, according to the owners, mistakenly interpreted the dog's friendly behavior as menacing. She called upon The HSUS, Career Training Institute, New Jersey Veterinary Medical Association, and New Jersey Certified Animal Control Officers to collaborate on developing a training video for police in Ocean County.

An existing documentary from In the Line of Duty fit the bill. Cammisa performed some editing, with input from MARO.

Ocean County Prosecutor Thomas Kelaher provided an introduction to the video, which will be shown in Ocean County police agencies. It would be desirable for such training to be mandatory and statewide. But until that happens, we hope that Ocean County's lead may foster adoption of widespread, optional training in basic dog behavior recognition by police academies across the state and beyond.

## Thanks to Disaster Responders

**T**he HSUS is deeply grateful for the outstanding work of MARO's volunteer Disaster Animal Response Team members who provided indispensable assistance during four successive hurricanes that devastated much of Florida last year: New Jersey's Jim Osorio, Willie Cirone, and Bob Boyle; and New York's Jeff Eyre and Jack Woods.



TOM DYER/HSUS

## NYC Joins Seal Protest

**O**n March 15, 2005, MARO Program Coordinator Barbara Dyer (center above) joined the International Day of Action Against the Canada Seal Hunt, which targets weeks-old baby seals, in a New York City protest. The demonstration was held in front of Canada's Consulate General. Similar protests against the world's largest slaughter of marine mammals were held in more than 50 cities in 22 countries. Help us protest the hunt by boycotting Canadian seafood; visit [www.protectseals.org](http://www.protectseals.org).



SAMANTHA MULLEN/HSUS

## Porsche Helps Pooches

**O**n March 24, 2005, MARO Program Coordinator Samantha Mullen joined the Porsche Cars North America campaign to assist animal shelters in finding loving homes for adoptable animals. The campaign, Cayenne for Canines, was launched at the International Auto Show held at the Javits Center in New York City. Animal Lovers League of Glen Cove, Long Island, was the regional shelter MARO recommended to partner with Porsche in this project. Other attendees were HSUS staff members Stephanie Shain and Sarah Comis, and comedienne Elayne Boosler. For the next six months, the shelter and others throughout the country will have the use of an SUV provided by Porsche. The company's national dealerships will encourage the public to adopt "Certified Pre-Owned dogs."



# Training Pays Off After PetCo Explosion

Early in the afternoon of March 4, 2005, MARO received a call alerting us of a severe explosion at the PetCo store in Eatontown, New Jersey. The explosion was apparently caused when a construction crew member cut into an unmarked gas line. No employees or customers had been killed, but the fate of the store's animals was unknown.

Upon contacting the Monmouth County SPCA, we learned that staff, volunteers, trucks, and rescue equipment from its shelter as well as from Associated Humane Societies had been immediately dispatched to the scene, as had veterinarian Karen Dashfield, from Sussex County. Only fire

department personnel were allowed access to the nearly destroyed building, but shortly after they entered, firemen began retrieving dozens of small mammals in cages and aquariums, transferring them to shelter staff and volunteers waiting outside. The only dog inside the store that day had been brought there for grooming; he had been evacuated prior to the explosion, along with most of the staff and customers, upon warning of a gas leak. No cats were on the

premises that day. However, at least 100 small animals, including Guinea pigs, hamsters, mice, rats, reptiles, birds, and fish were; over a third of them perished when the floor beneath their enclosures collapsed.

Thanks to the quick response on the part of surrounding animal shelters, the surviving animals found safe haven until staff from nearby PetCo facilities in Edison and Old Bridge collected them. Ursula Goetz, executive director of Monmouth County SPCA, sent her staff and volunteers home at around

midnight, the workday having been extended by an event no one could have foreseen. She commented, "I am grateful for the training in disaster and emergency issues that I received from The HSUS and other organizations and that I made it a priority for my staff. Because of that preparation, we were able to respond quickly and effectively when our resources were desperately needed."

As the PetCo calamity dramatically illustrates, planning for animals in disasters is vital. Please visit [www.hsus.org/disaster](http://www.hsus.org/disaster) for more information about such planning.

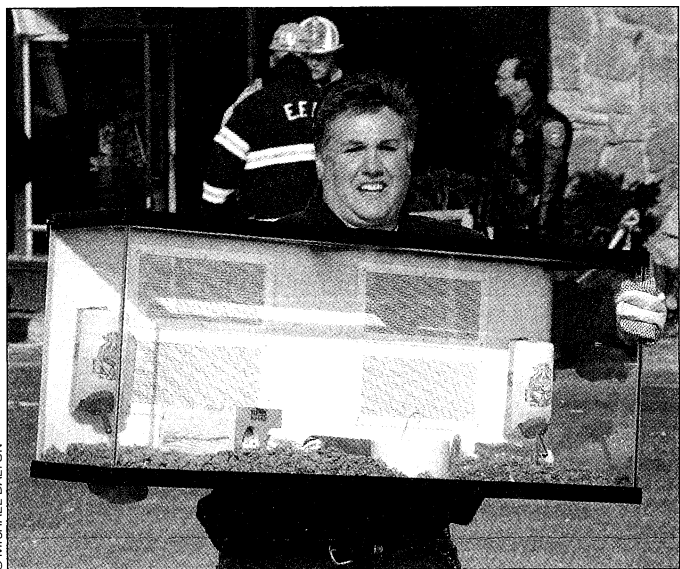
## HSUS, Fund for Animals Join Forces

The HSUS and The Fund for Animals (The Fund) officially joined forces in an unprecedented and historic combination on January 1, 2005. This is the first time in the history of the animal protection movement that two national, high-profile organizations have united in order to advance their common mission.

"Our groups have decided to join forces not out of necessity, but because we believe we can do more to help animals together than we can do operating separately," said David O. Wiebers, M.D., chair of The HSUS's board of directors.

The two groups plan to operate their advocacy programs under the banner of The HSUS, building a new external affairs department to focus on major defining issues such as fur, sport hunting, factory farming, and malicious animal cruelty, including animal fighting. They will pursue these goals with a multifaceted approach involving investigations, litigation, communications, and professional campaigning.

"With our new campaigns, we will create meaningful social change for animals," said Wayne Pacelle, president and CEO of The HSUS. "Our goal is nothing short of a kinder society, where compassionate individuals join with us to ensure that animals are not abused either in random acts of cruelty or in institutional settings, such as industrial factory farms."



A volunteer removes a small animal after an explosion at a New Jersey PetCo.

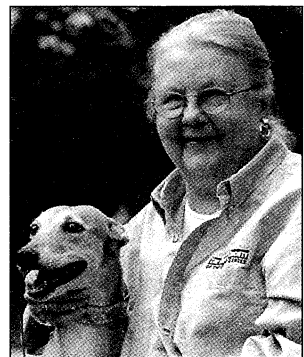
© MICHAEL DALTON

## State Animal Response Teams

When a disaster strikes, who will take care of the animals? This is the question posed on the cover of a brochure published by the Pennsylvania State Animal Response Team (PASART). PASART was created through a private-public partnership to serve as a unifying network to support prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery when emergencies affecting animals occur. PASART builds County Animal Response Teams (CARTs) across the state. You can join your county's team at [www.pasart.org](http://www.pasart.org), or if one doesn't exist, you can help establish one. The HSUS is proud to serve on the PASART board of directors, and we encourage our Pennsylvania members to consider joining this worthy cause.

Pennsylvania and New York join an increasing number of states that are patterning their SARTs and CARTs on the model of South Carolina. New York's SART is now in the formative stages. MARO is participating in planning meetings and has volunteered to serve on the steering committee of the New York SART, which will also operate as a public-private partnership embracing a broad spectrum of state agencies, private humane organizations and industries, and volunteer groups.

## Director's Report



LAURIE SHUREN

By Nina Austenberg  
Director of the Mid-Atlantic  
Regional Office

### Billions of Unseen Farm Animals Need Your Compassion

When I was a kid growing up in Brooklyn, children didn't learn to grow their own vegetables—the only plants we cared for were in window boxes. We certainly never saw farm animals, only alley cats and squirrels. Vegetables and meats came from the A&P, a meat market, or a local grocery store called Sloppy Louie's. By the time they got to my family, these goods were wrapped in paper or plastic and didn't remotely resemble the animals they came from. In those years, vegetables comprised the majority of the dinner plate. My mother would stretch out a pound of ground meat to feed the entire family, and eating out was a rarity.

How different things became when family farms became mechanized and fast food chains began to crop up everywhere! Burgers were advertised by weight, featuring double patties and more and more meat. Fast food was quick, it was easy, and it was inexpensive. So like millions, we made these restaurants a part of our daily lives.

This fast food revolution eventually generated a backlash. Gradually, activists

such as Cleveland Amory made me aware of the cruelty associated with factory farming methods. I resolved to reduce my consumption of these products. Like many people, the first thing I did was give up veal. That was easy—my family never served veal when I was growing up. For one, we couldn't afford it. But my father had grown up on a farm, and I later began to suspect he might have other, ethical objections to this food.

By the time I was married and had my own family, we were much more aware of the issues of animal handling and slaughter. One of the first issues I worked on under the leadership of Cleveland Amory was the humane slaughter bill. My son Lance gave up eating meat in junior high around the same time that one of his new teachers was reported to be discussing sport hunting as part of the class curriculum. When that same teacher told parents at open school night that they shouldn't object to sport hunting unless they were vegetarians, I decided to try to become a vegetarian. At first, I didn't even tell my mother for fear that I wouldn't succeed. I was also concerned about hurting my family, who—like so many—depended on meat as the centerpiece of holiday meals. As it turns out, I underestimated my family and my friends.

Within a few short years, my husband, Ken, became a vegan, and all of our children became vegetarians. Our family and friends make every picnic, wedding, or party one that includes options for vegetarians. Of course, not everyone will embrace this lifestyle as we did, but even some small changes in eating can make a huge difference. Meat, dairy, and produce can be purchased from natural growers who utilize organic farming techniques and allow animals to range freely.



**Prepackaged meat looks nothing like the animal it comes from, which makes it easier to consume. Knowing the origins of your food—and the conditions the animals endure—can help you make wise food choices that may also help the animals.**

Every meal offers you an opportunity to improve conditions for the billions of animals in the farm industry.

And if you slip, don't beat yourself up—just try again. And remind yourself to be just as considerate of those who don't share your lifestyle. After all, being humane means demonstrating kindness toward animals and each other.

The MARO Regional News is a publication of The Humane Society of the United States, Mid-Atlantic Regional Office, 270 Route 206, Bartley Square, Flanders, NJ 07836; 973-927-5611. Nina Austenberg, director. The office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is closed on federal holidays.

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